

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 28, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 332.]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the memorial of George L. Brent and Joseph Graham, praying compensation for services as special agents to Paraguay, have had the same under consideration, and report:

It appears from the memorial and accompanying documents that the petitioners, one of whom was the consul at Buenos Ayres, and the other the son of the chargé d'affaires of the United States at the same place, were sent, by the then functionary, from Buenos Ayres to Paraguay, the object of the mission being to offer the mediation of the American legation, with the assent and approbation of the Argentine confederation, to adjust the hostile relations then subsisting between that confederation and the province of Paraguay.

The object of this mission was one of great importance to the commercial interests of the United States, and, in the opinion of the committee, was properly instituted by the American minister, in the exercise of a sound discretion; and, as appears from a letter of the Secretary of State, which accompanies the report, was productive of useful and valuable results to the country.

The journey of the petitioners was long, arduous, and, from the hostilities then pending, was one of imminent peril; and the distance to be overcome, through this dangerous country, from 15 to 1800 miles. Nothing was advanced to the memorialists even for their expenses, and your committee deem it just that they should be compensated as in such cases is usual.

The memorialist Graham, on his return to Buenos Ayres, resumed his functions as consul, and his compensation is limited to the time during which absent, being 175 days.

The memorialist Brent, on his return to Buenos Ayres, found that the American chargé had returned home, thus depriving him of his former resource in his father's house. The blockade of the port, and the unsettled state of the country, detained him abroad

for some time, seeking an opportunity to return home, which he eventually did by going to Montevideo, and thence to the United States. For this detention, and to cover the expense incident to it, the committee are of opinion that he should be allowed a reasonable compensation.

The letter of Mr. Buchanan shows that compensation to the agents of government has been allowed at the rate of eight dollars per diem, together with necessary travelling expenses. The memorialists in their accounts have charged only the sum of \$70 each for his expenses, that being the sum it cost them, as it appears, whilst detained at the capital of Paraguay. Their travelling expenses through a wild and unsettled country, part of which was done in a vessel chartered for the purpose, was necessarily long, and your committee assume shall be covered by the per diem allowance.

They are of opinion therefore that each should be allowed the sum of \$8 per day, for the 175 days employed, until their return to Buenos Ayres, with one-half of that sum to Mr. Brent for the additional 165 days' detention on his way to the United States, and they report a bill accordingly.